

# Water, Land, Farms and Food



Education and information for sustaining farming and forestry on the urban fringe.

Spring 2003

## Critical Areas Ordinance Update

by Claire Dyckman

Under the state Growth Management Act, all counties must update Sensitive Areas Ordinances so that they are based upon best available science. Public discussion of the first draft of the updates to King County's Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) and Stormwater Management Ordinance occurred in January and February. The proposal improves protection of streams, shorelines, and wildlife by:

- increasing buffers;
- retaining 65% of vegetation on new development parcels in the rural area to manage stormwater and wildlife;
- replacing the existing exemption for horticultural activities with a requirement to install water quality filter strips; and
- providing regulatory flexibility on the 65% retention as an incentive to promote forest stewardship or protection of certain wildlife habitat.

Some people voiced strong support for the proposal. However, many rural residents were highly concerned about the potential effects of the proposal on rural lifestyle, farming, and affordable housing. Some of this concern was based on the cost of implementing scientifically supported regulations. Some of it was based on confusion over what was in the complex document.

The County is now revising the draft, in response to written comments and to discussions during the public meetings with Unincorporated Area Councils and with a "stakeholders" advisory group.

The requirement for water quality filter strips for horticulture will probably be removed from the CAO. Instead, incentive programs will be promoted to implement water quality best management practices and water quality enforcement will be left to the existing water quality ordinance. The County is indicating a strong commitment to not only support existing agriculture in the County, but to promote new agriculture – especially on lands that are already cleared.

Incentives, mechanisms for regulatory flexibility, and new ways to expedite the permit process are being developed. Washington State University (WSU) Cooperative Extension is participating with

others in the development of a low-cost technical assistance package to help rural landowners through the permit process. This package would include many of the WSU steward programs. Cooperative Extension would also play a role in increasing the use of financial incentives through Forest Stewardship Plans, Farm Plans, and the Public Benefit Rating System. There was a lot of concern about the wider buffers and 65% vegetation retention increasing the numbers of variances or reasonable use exemptions. The County is creating mechanisms to reduce variances where possible; to expedite them when needed; and to focus permitting resources towards mitigation, where appropriate.

The County faces a difficult regulatory challenge: implementing effective protection as indicated by the use of best available science is often in conflict with living on small parcels laced with numerous streams and wetlands. There are many controversies to be resolved, many areas where "balance" is needed. Many of you are well versed in these issues from the workshops and classes you have undertaken. Please step forward and participate in helping others to understand the issues and to provide the counties with their ideas and comments.

A second public review draft will be circulated sometime in late May. Meetings will be held in June. The second draft, along with summaries of the regulations and papers on the best available science will be posted at [www.metrokc.gov/DDES/CAO](http://www.metrokc.gov/DDES/CAO).

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# Water and Land

## CONSERVATION TOOLS EDUCATION PROGRAM



Thanks to the help of the WSU-CE Steward community, we can report good progress in achieving the education and conservation goals of the Conservation Tools Education Program.

The Conservation Tools Education Program seeks to protect areas critical to the conservation of threatened salmon through increased landowner use of conservation tools. To achieve this goal, we held landowner workshops in important salmonid-bearing watersheds, from Vashon Island to the Nisqually River. In addition to learning about current use taxation programs, conservation easements, and other land conservation tools, the 114 landowners who participated in the 2002 workshops had the opportunity to find out specifically how the natural resources on their land qualify for these conservation programs. Fifteen King County landowners requested follow-up site visits from WSU staff and stewards to learn more about what they can do to conserve their stream and woodland resources. Eight of the King County landowners with whom we worked proposed to enroll 67 acres of shoreline and woodlands into conservation programs.

Please contact Paul Racette at 206-205-3171 to find out about 2003 Conservation Tools Education Program activities.

## COMMUNITY SALMON FUND GRANTS NOW AVAILABLE IN KING COUNTY AND SOUTH SNOHOMISH COUNTY

The King County WaterWorks grant program and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation have established the Community Salmon Fund to stimulate small-scale, voluntary action to support salmon recovery. The fund is designed primarily for salmon recovery projects on private property. This round, funding will also be available for projects aimed at engaging new partners in salmon recovery.

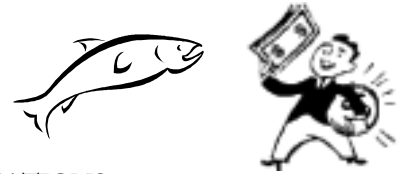
While individual private property owners are not directly eligible for grants, non-profit organizations and local governments are encouraged to carry out projects on private property as long as there is a compelling benefit to salmon. For example a project may undertake the removal of fish migration barriers on private land. While outright land acquisition is not eligible, conservancy easements and the cost of real estate transactions such as property surveys, are eligible. Projects in Snohomish County must take place on streams draining into Lake Washington.

Pre-proposals for community-based restoration projects to be funded in the first grant round are due April 1, 2003. Successful applicants will be invited to develop full proposals by May 15, 2003.

The Fund anticipates awarding up to \$200,000 in grants up to \$50,000. A second grant round will follow in the summer of 2003.

To date, nine projects have been awarded \$337,612. They range from removing fish migration barriers on Brookside Creek in Lake Forest Park to growing groundcover crops that protect new buffer plantings along the Snoqualmie River.

For more information about the Community Salmon Fund, contact Ken Pritchard at King County at (206)296-8265 ([ken.pritchard@metrokc.gov](mailto:ken.pritchard@metrokc.gov)) or Nick Pearson at (206) 691 0700 ([npearson@evergreenfc.com](mailto:npearson@evergreenfc.com)) or go directly to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Website at: [http://www.nfwf.org/programs/csf\\_rfp.htm](http://www.nfwf.org/programs/csf_rfp.htm)



## NEW PUBLICATIONS

### PNW Regional Water Quality Program

PNW Regional Water Quality Program has produced a series of educational publications about protecting streams. The publications relate land management practices with riparian areas, focusing on streamside vegetation native to the different bio-regions of the Pacific Northwest. The goal of these publications is to provide an initial introduction to the functions and values of riparian areas, as well as provide ways to protect streams and riparian areas. The publications also provide a list of other resources and contacts for more information. To view these online or to order copies visit:

<http://wawater.wsu.edu/index.htm>

### Wildlife Extension Project; Student Authors!

Undergraduate students in the Department of Natural Resource Sciences have designed and written some new online publications as part of a wildlife extension project this fall. Students in Nats 280 "Intro to Wildlife Management" course were asked to write an extension bulletin on the wildlife topic of their choice. The best of the best are available for viewing and downloading as pdf files off the Dept. NRS Extension website at:

<http://ext.nrs.wsu.edu/publications/index.htm>

You'll find them listed under Wildlife Publications: Student bulletins. Titles include:

- Developing fish habitat
- Backyard bats
- Amphibian habitat on private land
- Wetland management for waterfowl
- Encouraging songbirds in your backyard
- Life on the edge: when urban sprawl meets wildlife
- In bear country: a practical guide to hiking and camping around black bears

This was a pilot project developed by Dr. Lisa Shipley and the natural resource extension faculty.

# More Water and Land



## SPECIAL FOREST PRODUCTS

When you think of forests and the products that are harvested from them many of us think of timber and wood. There is a wide array of other valuable products that are considered “non-timber” or “alternative” forest products. The Pacific Northwest has one of the most diverse forest ecosystems on the planet. Many landowners use these products for personal use or as gifts such as making jam or wreaths. But the harvesting, processing and wholesale distribution of these products is a multimillion dollar a year business in Washington that employs thousands of people. Special forest products can be classified into three categories: **floral greens**, **edibles**, and **medicinals**.



**Floral Greens** – The flowers, stems and leaves of these products can be used for dried, preserved and fresh decorative materials. These materials are used for making wreaths, flower arrangements, potpourri and garlands. They include salal, ferns, conifer boughs, cones, evergreen huckleberry, and beargrass (a member of the lily family). Salal, ferns and dyed beargrass are commonly used as a background material in floral arrangements to accent flowers. Conifer boughs and cones are commonly seen in wreaths and garlands during the Holiday season. Floral greens are a big business. In the year 2000 about four million pounds of salal used in floral arrangements was shipped from the Pacific Northwest!



**Edibles** – These are products that grow in the forest and can be eaten. They include berries (huckleberry, blackberry, elderberry), nuts (filberts or hazelnuts) and fungi. The largest category of edibles is the mushrooms and fungi. There are over 200 species that grow in the Pacific Northwest. Several of these varieties are edible and quite valuable to both the harvester and grower. These include the Shitake, Portabello, Morel and Mitsuake. Mushrooms are fairly easy to grow and if you do not have any on your property they can be introduced by inoculating rotting logs with mushroom spawn. This material is available from many mushroom suppliers. Edible forest products provide many niche-marketing opportunities. Contact some restaurants and try providing them with a source of fresh organic locally grown mushrooms to add to their menus. In 1992 3.9 million pounds of mushrooms worth \$40 million were harvested from the forests of Washington, Oregon and Idaho.



**Medicinals** – These are plants whose roots, leaves, fruits, stems and flowers are used for teas, aromatic oils, salves, creams, sprays, powders, pills, tonics, and tinctures. Some are used in aromatherapy and some for dietary supplements. The bark from willow trees

contains salicylic acid that reduces pain and inflammation and is the primary ingredient in aspirin. Cascara bark is used as a laxative. Stinging nettles, which are annoyance to many of us, has a long history as a medicinal herb. Nettles are being prescribed to treat disorders such as diseases of the prostate, allergies and arthritic conditions. Several species of lichens contain antioxidants and help in the control of cancer. Pacific yew contains taxol also an effective drug for combating cancer.

As research on forest plants continues and interest in naturopathic medicine increases we are finding more and more beneficial uses for them. Next time you are walking outdoors look around at the forest, it is your medicine chest, restaurant and art gallery.

## FIELD DAY FOR LIVESTOCK OWNERS AND SMALL WOODLAND OWNERS

Does your farm have a few trees or several acres of woodland? Are you interested in learning more about sustainable forest management practices? Attend the FREE Field Day **Saturday April 5th** from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.! Learn how to determine if your forest is healthy, and how to control diseases. Find out about harvest options including low-impact options, learn techniques to enhance wildlife, find out about soils and techniques for managing them that will enhance soil productivity.



This free event will be held in Enumclaw, WA, on a working cattle farm that has been in the family for three generations. This family is committed to being good stewards of the land while deriving income from their land - from both the trees and the cattle. Visit this beautiful 270-acre cattle operation and witness the sustainable forest management practices they have implemented on their farm. The event is free but pre-registration is required. For additional information or to register contact Geoff Reed at the King Conservation District at 206-764-3410 X103 or [geoff.reed@kingcd.org](mailto:geoff.reed@kingcd.org)

## FOREST STEWARDSHIP CLASSES STARTING IN APRIL

Are you interested in learning how to manage your forest land and develop a management plan that meets your goals and objectives? Whether you have one acre or 50 this class is for you. We cover soils, water quality, wildlife management, forest ecology, silviculture, and habitat enhancement. Forest Stewardship Class will be held on Wednesday evenings 6:30 - 9:30 pm in the Issaquah area. The class is 10 weeks in length with 8 classroom sessions and two Saturday field trips. Classes start in late April and last through June. There is a fee for the class. For additional information contact Steve Sax Forestry - Education Program Coordinator at WSU Cooperative Extension at 206-205-3132 or at [steve.sax@metrokc.gov](mailto:steve.sax@metrokc.gov)





## Farms and Food



### LIVING ON THE LAND: A COURSE FOR SMALL ACREAGE LANDOWNERS

by Brad Gaolach



At 6:30 pm on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 17 people began a 10-week journey learning about soils, water, pasture and animals and how they relate to their goals for their own small acreage. Using the Living on the Land curriculum developed by Cooperative Extension and Conservation District personnel from seven states, this series of classes are being offered at WSU Cooperative Extension King County offices.

The first week and part of the second week started with the basics. Exploring why participants chose to own or wanted to purchase small acreages; what their goals were for the property. After exploring what they wanted to achieve, they then drew a map of their property and noted what resources they already had available to them and what areas were going to need some work. Finally, the class explored some of the regulatory issues that may impact what they want to do. Equipped with this information, participants developed a revised set of goals based on what they want, what they have, what they can and cannot do legally.

The next section (called modules) addressed soils. Class participants learned about soil texture and structure, how to take a soil sample and send it off for analysis and how to use the soil surveys to learn what their soils can support. With this information the class learned about how soil properties affect soil fertility, irrigation needs and considerations and how to control erosion. An important part of soil fertility and health is the use of compost. During this module, students learned the basics of composting. Overall, the soil module provided participants with the information they need to manage their soil to keep it productive over the long-term.

After learning about soils, the class moved towards water issues. The first topic in this module was exploring the basic issues around water quality; what factors affect the quality of our surface and groundwater and what laws and regulations impact our uses. Having learned about the general issues, the class focused on key water quality issues on their own land: drinking wells and septic systems. Experts from Seattle/King County Public Health presented information on how to protect the quality of well water and how to maintain septic systems for long life and prevent them from polluting ground or surface water. Next the class focused on protecting surface water that may be part of their property, learning about the value of riparian systems, how to maintain them and how to know if their stream is healthy.

The class then turned toward pastures and grass management. In February the class began looking at noxious and obnoxious weeds, how to identify them and how to control them. Next the class learned about managing pasture for maximum productivity and health along with growing quality hay on the west side of the Cascades (yes, it can be done)!

A field trip on March 8<sup>th</sup> showed some of these classroom concepts. The final three class periods are devoted to animals. Why might you want to have them? What it really takes in terms of money and time to have livestock. If you still choose to have them, how do you care for them? The series ends just in time for the participants to take their new knowledge to the Small Farm Expo and explore additional management options, equipment to help them and where to get quality livestock.

This series of classes will be offered again in 2004. If you are interested in this series and want to be notified when the dates are set, send your name and address to Brad Gaolach at the WSU Cooperative Extension office in King County or by email: [gaolach@wsu.edu](mailto:gaolach@wsu.edu).



### CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

by Brad Gaolach

It's Here! It's Here!!! The 2002 National Agricultural Census is being conducted as we speak. Nearly 3,200 forms were mailed to King County farms and ranches in December. By now you should have returned your official 2002 census (they were due in early February). But don't despair, if you did not receive one or accidentally forgot to return it, you still can receive a copy and get your information tabulated – just call 1-888-4AG STAT.

**Why would you want to fill this out?** Census of Agriculture data is used by many groups to improve policies that affect agriculture, to plan rural development, and to determine state and local agricultural funding needs. ***By completing your census form you are ensuring that your farm or ranch is counted, which may influence decisions about facilities and services located near you.*** In addition, yearly follow up surveys by the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) are selected only from those who were part of the previous national survey – if you don't participate now your voice won't be heard for another 5 years!

**I don't want my information to be public or used by the government.** It cannot be! Title 7 of the U.S. code protects your privacy. The confidentiality of agricultural census data has survived numerous challenges under the Freedom of Information Act and can NOT be used by the IRS! In addition, data reported in the census is aggregated; no one will be able to determine your individual answer to any question.

**But I'm not a farm.** The mark to determine if you qualify as a farm for the census is actually pretty low. You only need to produce or sell, or normally would have sold, \$1,000 or more of agricultural products during the census year. If you raise or own livestock that *could be* sold for more than \$1,000 you may qualify!

If you have more questions, visit the official census web site at [www.nass.usda.gov/census/census02/preliminary/census\\_faq.htm](http://www.nass.usda.gov/census/census02/preliminary/census_faq.htm), or call 1-888-4AG STAT.

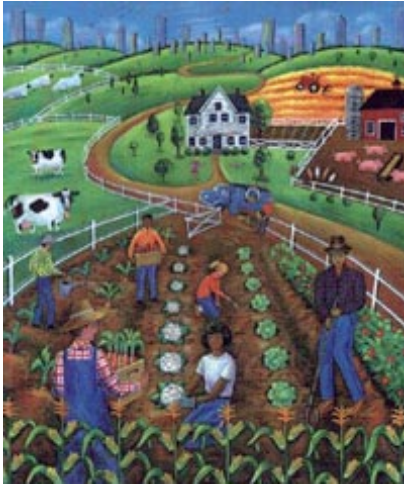


## More Farms and Food



### NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY CONFERENCE INSPIRES LOCAL ACTION

by Sylvia Kantor



WSU Cooperative Extension King County and the WSU Small Farms Program played a key organizing role in producing the Community Food Security Coalition's (CFSC) most recent annual conference held in Seattle in early October 2002. The CFSC is made up of organizations concerned with social and economic justice, the environment, nutrition,

sustainable agriculture, community development, labor, poverty and hunger. The conference drew together more than 500 people from all over the country and Canada who are working on some of the same food security problems we have in here in Washington.

The community food security concept takes a holistic approach to the complex issues of food production, distribution, nutrition and hunger. One of the principles of community food security is that stable local agriculture is key to a community responsive food system. Farmers need increased access to markets that pay them a decent wage for their labor, and farmland needs planning protection.

Among many noteworthy elements of the conference were:

- The farm-to-school program. All over the country, school food service departments are contracting with local farmers to supply fresh, local foods to school cafeterias. Kids need healthy, fresh food and local farmers need strong local markets. Set this against the recent knowledge that state is second in the nation in hunger and it isn't hard to see the opportunities for connecting schools and farms. Farm-to-school projects involve farmers, parents, schools, the health community and whoever else is interested.
- A major topic of discussion was the development of municipal food policy councils to place the issues of food and hunger squarely on the public agenda.
- David Korten, author of *When Corporations Rule the World*, gave a plenary address to the conference. He spoke on the emergence of a global civil society and on the role of food and agriculture in strengthening local economies. The full text of his talk can be found at [http://www.foodsecurity.org/conf\\_keynote.html](http://www.foodsecurity.org/conf_keynote.html).

So what happens now that the conference is over and gone? Plenty! Many of the organizing individuals and attendees are staying in touch with each other via a new list serve called the Washington

Food Systems Alliance. Through this list folks in Washington (and beyond) are discussing how and when to hold local food system workshops and more. If you are interested in learning more or would like to join the list, contact Sylvia Kantor [sylvia.kantor@metrokc.gov](mailto:sylvia.kantor@metrokc.gov) or call 206-205-3131.

The conference was cosponsored locally by *Cascade Harvest Coalition, Delridge Neighborhoods Development Association, Earth Ministry, Food Resource Network Federation, Fremont Public Association Lettuce Link Program, Pike Place Market Basket CSA, Seattle Dept of Neighborhoods P-Patch Program, WSU Cooperative Extension King County, WSU Small Farms Program.*

For further information about the Community Food Security Coalition visit [www.foodsecurity.org](http://www.foodsecurity.org).



### AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM

by Sonia Morales

Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) is a unique, fun and fact-filled workshop experience for teachers of all grade levels and all subjects. This workshop will help educators to integrate knowledge of our food and fiber system into their existing curriculum. The class addresses Washington agriculture, soils, water, crops, livestock, insects, and biotechnology. Demonstrations, field trips, and hands-on activities are incorporated into the training. Teachers also will get materials, lesson plans adaptable to their class, and much more. The training will be held in Renton in July 2003. It is a five-day workshop for three 400-level continuing education credits. Cost is \$75 to cover registration and a materials fee. Scholarships are available to all core/full-time teachers.

To apply, phone or email WAITC in Yakima (509-469-2430); email: [info@waic.net](mailto:info@waic.net). For more information in Renton contact Sonia G. Morales, WSU Cooperative Extension King County (206-205-3133) or e-mail: [sgmorales@wsu.edu](mailto:sgmorales@wsu.edu). VOLUNTEERS ARE ALSO WELCOME!



# WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE GRANTS INCREASE SALES FOR SMALL-SCALE FARMS

The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) in January awarded more than \$182,000 in grants to 12 projects designed to increase sales for small-scale farms. The grants, which are the second round of projects sponsored by WSDA, were developed from federal funds received in October of 2001. "Our goal is to assist small farmers and fishermen who want to sell their products to local consumers at farmers markets, retail stores, restaurants and institutions. With projects funded by these grants, farms receive increased revenue, consumers receive fresh high-quality food, and we enhance our local community food system," says Kelli Sanger, coordinator of WSDA's Small Farm and Direct Marketing Program. Projects funded in the first round of grants are already showing positive results. For example, with \$10,900 awarded last year, the Bellingham Farmers Market conducted a promotional campaign that increased sales for small farm vendors by nine percent over 2001. The market experienced its highest sales since 1995, and increased revenue by more than \$80,800.

**The following statewide projects were approved in round two:**  
**Washington State University (WSU)** - \$13,930 to research and evaluate safe storage and handling practices for the sale of fresh meats at farmers markets, and to train Washington farmers on food safety and "Good Agricultural Practices." Contact: Richard Dougherty, Food Science Specialist, (509) 335-0972.

**WSU Small Farms Program** - \$14,195 to conduct "Rapid Market Assessments" at farmers markets across the state, and train managers and board members who are interested in improving their markets. This project will increase sales for small farms by improving farmers markets' customer and vendor base and sharing successful strategies with other markets. Contact: Vance Corum, Direct Marketing Coordinator, (360) 576-6030.

**Neighborhood Farmers Market Alliance** - \$16,000 to start up a new Saturday market in Seattle's Magnolia neighborhood. This market is modeled after several successful Seattle neighborhood markets, and will provide increased sales opportunities for small farms across the state. Contact: Karen Kinney, (206) 632-5234.

## **Eastern Washington projects include:**

**Partnership for a Sustainable Methow** - \$10,486 to study the feasibility of building and operating a USDA-certified mobile livestock processing unit in Okanogan County. The unit is part of a larger project to allow livestock producers in the county to sell meats certified by USDA directly to customers by the pound. Contact: Sue Koptonak, Executive Director, (509) 997-1050.

**Spokane Regional Convention and Visitors Bureau** - \$15,000 to increase profitability, livability and economic viability of the Green Bluff agricultural community in Spokane County by promoting the community as a destination for agricultural products, activities and events. Funding will provide for directional and promotional signage for the region. Contact: Jeanna Shelley, Director of Tourism Development, (509) 742-9372.

## **Western Washington projects include:**

**Cascade Harvest Coalition** - \$27,050 to work with the University of Washington to develop an ordering, delivery and invoicing system so that small farmers can collaboratively market their produce directly to UW food services. Contact: Wendy McClure, Project Leader, (425) 259-1755.

**Island Grown Farmers Cooperative** - \$7,000 to study the feasibility of selling grass-fed beef, pork and lamb meat products directly to consumers at a retail meat cutting facility. Contact: Bruce Dunlop, Project Manager, (360) 468-4620.

**Jefferson County Farmers Market Association** - \$20,000 to promote the farmers market in Port Townsend. This will make consumers more aware of the farmers market as a source of fresh, high-quality regional and organic food products, and increase sales opportunities for small farmers. Contact: Will O'Donnell, Chair, (360) 732-5054.

**Pike Place Market** - \$20,000 to expand the Pike Place Senior Market Basket Community Supported Agriculture program by providing transportation solutions. The program delivers fresh fruits and vegetables from Washington small farms to low-income seniors in King County. Contact: Michele Catalano, Project Leader, (206) 774-5250.

**UW Washington Sea Grant Program** - \$15,500 to develop a business plan to allow fishermen to sell their catch directly to the public by developing a business plan and opening up a "Fisherman's Wharf" in Bellingham where fishermen can sell their catch directly to the public. The project will increase the value of Whatcom County's commercial fishing industry and provide the public with a direct source of fresh-caught fish. Contact: Pete Granger, Marine Advisory Services Leader, (206) 685-9261.

**Whatcom County Agriculture Preservation Committee** - \$11,750 to promote the "Whatcom Fresh" label in grocery stores, restaurants and institutions as a source of fresh high-quality foods produced in Whatcom County. The project will increase the commitment of retailers and restaurants to buy and promote local food products and increase the economic viability of food producers in the county. Contact: Derek Long, Project Director, (360) 303-7776.

**Willapa Community Development Association** - \$11,500 to develop a Friday market in conjunction with the established Wednesday and Saturday markets in Raymond. This project will provide recreation and a source of fresh fruits, vegetables and seafood for residents and visitors heading to the Washington coast. Contact: Carol Dunsmoor, Willapa Public Market Manager, (360) 942-4700.

In addition to grants, the Small Farm and Direct Marketing Program provides small farms with direct marketing assistance and publishes The Handbook of Regulations for Direct Farm Marketing, better known as "The Green Book." For a free copy of the handbook, or the program's annual report, call Kelli Sanger at (360) 902-2057 or e-mail [ksanger@agr.wa.gov](mailto:ksanger@agr.wa.gov).



## WSU Stewardship Picnic: Learn How You Can Get Involved!

by John Coleman and Darcy Batura

On September 7, 2002, the Land/Water Steward Association King County, in conjunction with WSU-CE, 4-H, EarthCorps, and the Friends of the Cedar Rive Watershed, held the **1st Annual WSU Stewardship Picnic** at Seattle Public Utility's Rattlesnake Lake Recreation Area. The event was made possible in part by a Small Change for a Big Difference Grant awarded by the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks.

Activities offered during the celebration included bus tours of the watershed, water quality education, games and activities for kids, and door prizes. Although the picnic was technically for volunteers, it was also open to the public with the hope of recruiting more King County residents to participate in environmental stewardship programs offered by the picnic sponsors.

Approximately 50 volunteers joined us for the day, but we suspect that many more visited the event, especially hikers that stopped in en route to or from the Rattlesnake Ledge Trailhead.

We are beginning to plan the 2nd Annual WSU Stewardship Picnic that will take place September 13th, 2003. It is exciting to plan for potential locations, partners and activities to make this year's event a smashing success. Stay tuned for upcoming announcements with additional details. For more information contact Sylvia Kantor 206-205-3131; [sylvia.kantor@metrokc.gov](mailto:sylvia.kantor@metrokc.gov).

**Alternate formats available upon request. (206) 205-3100; TTY 711**

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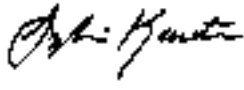
Brad Gaolach, Sylvia Kantor, Ali Nichols and Tara Goldsmith

*Water, Land, Farms and Food* is produced by the Agriculture and Natural Resources Staff of WSU Cooperative Extension King County. Formerly entitled *Farms and Woodlands on the Urban Fringe*, the newsletter title has been changed to more accurately reflect our mission and goals.

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